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Press Release

Rio Tinto's Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company Signs Civil Construction Contract with Bacco Construction Company

(Ishpeming, Mich. — July 13, 2010) — Rio Tinto and Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company (KEMC) are pleased to announce the signing of a contract with Bacco Construction Company (Bacco) of Iron Mountain, Michigan for the performance of civil construction work at the Eagle Mine Site. Mobilization is slated to begin the week commencing 12 July 2010.

Bacco is a member of the Upper Peninsula Construction Council and a safety leader that has been recognized by the Michigan AGC for their outstanding safety record. Only 36 contractors across the state of Michigan received the Excellence in Safety Award for zero lost time accidents during the 2007 calendar year. Bacco Construction of Iron Mountain was 1 of 2 contractors in the state to receive AGC honor roll status.

John Fortier, President of Bacco Construction stated "Bacco works all throughout the Upper Peninsula and over the years we have found that one of the key factors in achieving a safe and successful project, wherever it is located, is to use as many craft employees from the surrounding area of the job as possible. We will be relying heavily on Marquette County's trade union men and women to make this exciting opportunity safe and successful for Bacco, Rio Tinto, and the community."

Bacco estimates that they will employ 25 to 35 people during the term of this contract.

Bacco is Michigan's oldest prequalified contractor, having been prequalified with the Michigan Department of Transportation over 70 years. The founder, Medio Bacco was awarded the company's first contract in 1915.

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In addition to being a member of the UP Construction Council, Bacco Construction Company actively participates in association groups including Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA), Asphalt Pavement Association of Michigan (APAM), Associated General Contractors of America (AGCA), and National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA).

Rio Tinto is pleased to be working with Bacco on the Eagle Project.

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About Kennecott Eagle Minerals

A wholly owned unit of Rio Tinto, Marquette County, Michigan-based Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company is the owner, developer, and future operator of Eagle Mine in western Marquette County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (USA). When built, Eagle Mine will be the only primary nickel mine in the U.S., and is expected to produce 300 million pounds of nickel, 250 million pounds of copper and trace amounts of other minerals. During operations Kennecott will employ more than 150 people, as well as numerous contractors. www.kennecotteagleminerals.com

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the United Kingdom, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminum, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and Southern Africa. www.riotinto.com